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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hickory officially declares Stage 3 water restrictions

HICKORY – The City of Hickory officially declared Stage 3 drought earlier today as the drought conditions continue to get worse throughout the Catawba River Basin. Duke Energy and several other water suppliers in the region declared a Stage 3 drought last week.

On October 1, the City of Hickory, and water suppliers along the Upper Catawba River Basin mandated more stringent mandatory water use restrictions which reflect an official Stage 3 with the desired result of 10 to 20 percent reduction in water use. City of Hickory Public Utilities continues to request that all customers cut back in all ways possible to help the system reach the desired reductions.

“This is a very serious situation that all citizens need to pay attention to,” said Hickory City Manager Mick Berry. “Many of our water users have quit watering lawns and washing cars, and we appreciate that greatly. A green lawn and a sparkling clean car at this point are not the best use of our limited resources until our water source can be replenished by much needed rainfall.”

Duke Energy declared that all system measures used by the Low Inflow Protocol (LIP) were now reflecting a Stage 3 LIP condition which include: Stream Flows at less than half of historical flows, Groundwater gauges measuring a continually decreasing groundwater table, US Drought Monitor reflective of an Exceptional Drought, which is the worst measure and the Lake Storage is lower than normal for this time of year and continually decreasing.

Recent forecasts predict that southeastern United States is entering into a below average to average weather cycle which means that no substantial rainfall is projected and that it will be a mild winter.

The City of Hickory Public Utilities Department is continually evaluating the situation and is confident that this increased graduation of awareness and restrictions is necessary to protect our system.

Stage 3 LIP Restrictions include:

- No lawn watering or irrigation. No sprinklers allowed.
- No residential car washing allowed.
- Ornamental fountains, Fish Ponds and Pools must be shut down once water levels are low enough to require refilling.

- No filling pools.
- Trees, vegetables, flowers and shrubs may be watered any day of the week during the morning (7 a.m. to 11 a.m.) or late evening hours (7 p.m. to 10 p.m.) by use of a manned hose with a spring loaded nozzle, drip irrigation or soaker hoses.
- Car Lots must request a variance to wash their stock and the pressure washing companies must contact Public Utilities Departments for variances in order to avoid issuance of fines.

Stage 3 LIP Fines:

Violation	<1.5-inch	>2-inch
First	\$200.00	\$400.00
Second	\$400.00	\$800.00
Third & Above	\$600.00	\$1,200.00

Water Suppliers in the Upper Catawba River Basin and Duke Energy will continue to monitor the drought conditions. Hickory customers are encouraged to listen to media reports about the mandatory water restrictions, visit www.hickorygov.com with water restrictions update, or call City of Hickory Public Utilities Division at (828) 323-7427.

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